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## **Consumer Price Index, Alaska area – February 2019**

**Area prices were up 0.3 percent over the past two months, up 2.5 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Alaska area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.3 percent for the two months ending in February 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the February increase was influenced by higher prices for recreation and food. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 2.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices advanced 1.6 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of electricity. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

### **Food**

Food prices increased 1.6 percent for the two months ending in February. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home increased 1.8 percent, and prices for food at home rose 1.5 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 2.6 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.1 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 2.1 percent.

### **Energy**

The energy index decreased 4.0 percent for the two months ending in February. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-9.4 percent). Prices for natural gas service were unchanged, while prices for electricity rose 2.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 1.6 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for electricity (22.5 percent). Prices for gasoline declined 6.8 percent, and prices paid for natural gas service decreased 4.2 percent during the past year.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.5 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for recreation (2.5 percent) and medical care (1.0 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-1.1 percent) and shelter (-0.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included recreation (11.5 percent) and medical care (9.6 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-4.0 percent) and education and communication (-1.4 percent).

**The April 2019 Consumer Price Index for the Urban Alaska area is scheduled to be released on May 10, 2019.**

### **Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018**

In January 2018, BLS introduced a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This index changed to a bimonthly publication schedule beginning in February, 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: [www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm).

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the *BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index*, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The Urban Alaska area covered in this release consists of Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the State of Alaska.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Urban Alaska (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	226.537	-	227.183	2.5	0.3	-
All items (1967=100) .....	604.658	-	606.382	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	211.929	-	215.043	2.4	1.5	-
Food .....	217.381	-	220.923	2.6	1.6	-
Food at home .....	212.048	209.750	215.230	2.1	1.5	2.6
Cereals and bakery products .....	211.917	-	232.516	6.6	9.7	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	200.111	-	193.200	-4.0	-3.5	-
Dairy and related products .....	197.539	-	193.487	-1.2	-2.1	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	325.525	-	344.512	6.7	5.8	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	152.772	-	152.421	4.6	-0.2	-
Other food at home .....	179.433	-	179.388	1.3	0.0	-
Food away from home .....	223.983	-	228.010	3.1	1.8	-
Food away from home .....	223.983	-	228.010	3.1	1.8	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	156.859	-	156.243	0.7	-0.4	-
Housing .....	207.391	-	206.889	1.6	-0.2	-
Shelter .....	206.817	205.372	205.454	0.4	-0.7	0.0
Rent of primary residence(2) .....	203.867	201.022	200.239	-0.2	-1.8	-0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2) .....	206.499	206.614	206.553	1.2	0.0	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2) .....	206.499	206.614	206.553	1.2	0.0	0.0
Fuels and utilities .....	352.161	-	359.773	10.2	2.2	-
Household energy .....	374.024	379.525	379.411	10.7	1.4	0.0
Energy services .....	416.494	423.040	423.040	10.8	1.6	0.0
Electricity .....	376.791	386.404	386.404	22.5	2.6	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service .....	459.057	459.057	459.057	-4.2	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations .....	130.125	-	130.510	2.1	0.3	-
Apparel .....	156.886	-	156.372	-4.0	-0.3	-
Transportation .....	224.167	-	224.129	0.8	0.0	-
Private transportation .....	234.828	-	234.602	1.1	-0.1	-
New and used motor vehicles(3) .....	-	-	112.712	4.2	-	-
New vehicles(1) .....	-	-	259.853	11.0	-	-
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	259.298	-	261.517	0.8	0.9	-
Motor fuel .....	243.415	231.907	220.780	-6.8	-9.3	-4.8
Gasoline (all types) .....	244.275	232.669	221.382	-6.8	-9.4	-4.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....	236.629	224.185	213.215	-7.3	-9.9	-4.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) .....	232.426	224.249	213.310	-5.1	-8.2	-4.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....	242.334	237.399	226.466	-4.6	-6.5	-4.6
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	1,007.596	-	1,007.596	3.2	0.0	-
Medical care .....	602.454	-	608.275	9.6	1.0	-
Recreation(3) .....	130.522	-	133.828	11.5	2.5	-
Education and communication(3) .....	114.262	-	113.014	-1.4	-1.1	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	726.787	-	727.849	3.5	0.1	-
Other goods and services .....	353.754	-	355.523	3.5	0.5	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	226.537	-	227.183	2.5	0.3	-
Commodities .....	182.766	-	183.078	1.6	0.2	-
Commodities less food & beverages .....	167.253	-	166.393	1.2	-0.5	-
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	214.301	-	207.180	-2.7	-3.3	-
Durables .....	127.325	-	130.004	4.9	2.1	-
Services .....	264.231	-	265.173	3.0	0.4	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Urban Alaska (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	213.335	-	213.831	2.0	0.2	-
All items less shelter.....	234.396	-	236.104	3.5	0.7	-
Commodities less food .....	167.189	-	166.337	1.2	-0.5	-
Nondurables .....	213.512	-	211.760	0.0	-0.8	-
Nondurables less food.....	210.238	-	203.742	-2.4	-3.1	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	358.305	-	363.451	5.9	1.4	-
Services less medical care services.....	244.411	-	245.166	2.3	0.3	-
Energy .....	298.743	293.759	286.799	1.6	-4.0	-2.4
All items less energy .....	222.654	-	224.114	2.6	0.7	-
All items less food and energy .....	223.879	-	225.015	2.6	0.5	-

**Footnotes**

(1) Indexes on a December 1978=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.